(b) whether the investigating agency could identify the culprits responsible for the bomb blast;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of Muslims were arrested for the violence after the bomb blast; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such arrest and how many of them are being tried, how many are in police and judicial custody and how many have been released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) As per the report received from the Andhra Pradesh Government a bomb kept in a bag exploded in Murkaji mosque at Pothurivarithota, under Kothapet Police Station in Guntur town, on 25.6.2000. The culprits have been identified.

(c) and (d) In all 56 persons belonging to both Hindu and Muslim community have been arrested for the violence following the blast for indulging in violence and destruction of properties. All the arrested persons are now in judicial custody.

Demand for separate State of Gorkhaland

347. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation from Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council comprising of Sarva Shri Deepak Gurung, C.K. Pradhan and I.N. Pradhan met the Home Minister in June, 2000;

(b) whether they have have submitted a memorandum demanding for a separate State of Gorkhaland;

(c) if so, whether after prolonged discussions with Home Minister, they were given assurance for creation of separate State of Gorkhaland;

(d) if so, the details and time frame thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) A delegation comprising of Presidents of GNLF Branch Committee of Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong had met the Union Home Minister in June, 2000 and had submitted a memorandum urging the Central Government to take steps for creation of a separate State of Gorkhaland.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Establishment of Jain Temple at Brahmi Village in U.P.

348. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by Government regarding Jain temple being established at Brahmi village at Badrinath Hills in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some pandas in the area of Badrinath Hills are creating problem and obstructing establishment of a Jain Dharamshala and temple; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to protect temple and allow Jains to have pran pritishtha of Jain Idol Adinath on the 11th August, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) As per the report received from Govt. of UP, permission had been given by the concerned local authority to Shri Shwetambar Jain Trust to construct a prayer hall only, at Badrinath. However, there was opposition and resentment/tension among the local community comprising the Pandas, traders and Saints on the construction of a Jain Temple, for which, permission had not been granted. However, with the intervention of the District Administration, the matter has been resolved amicably and the idol of Shri Adinath, the Jain diety, has been taken to Haridwar.